(e) the details of actions taken to tighten the selection and quality monitoring process for supply of mineral water in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the surprise checks conducted by the officials of medical department in the months of July and August, 1998, a total number of ,727 samples of mineral water were collected on all Indian Railways and sent for laboratory examination. Out of these 131 samples of different brands failed the test checks...

(c) to (e) No, Sir. On the basis of inquiry conducted by the Railways the supply of four brands of mineral water has been discontinued an their contracts terminated. All Zonal Railways were also advised to take suitable action against the mineral water suppliers/manufacturers whose samples have failed. Tendering procedure is being made more stringent.

Mineral water samples are collected regularly under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Quality Control and examined for quality and standards laid down by the Ministry of Health. In case of samples found adulterated, departmental and legal action is taken against the vendors/suppliers. Besides, regular checks/inspections are being conducted by the Commercial and Medical officers on static and mobile catering units.

Loss of Railways due to accidents

308. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total loss incurred by the railways due to frequent accidents;

(b) what steps are being taken to prevent further disasters in railways;

(c)'what is the time taken to give relief money to the families of the deceased and

(d) what is the total amount disbursed during this year on account of rail accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The total direct loss occured during the last 2 years due to accidents are as under:

1996-97 — 53.21 cr.
1997-98 — 56.13 cr. (Provisional)

(b) Steps taken to being down the incidents of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under:—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimuse chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometeres are bieng progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilities for coache and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, maintenance depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(viii) Whistle boards speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

(c) and (d) Immediately after the accident ex-gratia amounting to Rs. 15,000/- in case of death. Rs. 5,000/- in case of injury and Rs. 500 in case of simple injury is given to the victims to take care of their immediate needs. Compensation claim is paid soon after the claims are decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal.

The amount of compensation paid during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:—

Year	Amount of compensation paid
1996-97	(amount in lakhs 709.31
1997-98	240.89

Note: The claim cases arising out of accidents are mostly not decided in the same year. Therefor, the amount paid may not be for the accident taken place in the same year.

Shuttle service between Godhra-Surat-Godhra

2309. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to start shuttle service between Godhra-Surat-Godhra is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if os, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tatkal reservation facility

2310. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tatkal Reservation facility for all the classes has been provided in some trains leaving Delhi and other places;

(b) if so, the names of such trains with formalities and charges prescribed at each place to avail this facility;